

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: SECURITY PROTECTION AFFORDED PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS
AT OVERSEAS POSTS

FOR P AND C FROM DIRECTOR KEOGH

REF: STATE 210312-C

1. REFTTEL HAS CALLED ATTENTION TO A SECURITY PROBLEM THAT IS
INHERENT IN THE PRECEPTS TO AGENCY PROGRAMMING. EFFECTIVE
PROGRAMMING DEMANDS READY ACCESS TO USIS FACILITIES BY AUDIENCES
AND CORRESPONDINGLY, THE OPEN ACCESSIBILITY AND PUBLIC EXPOSURE OF
OUR PERSONNEL.

2. USIA CAN POINT WITH PRIDE TO THE PERSONAL COMMITMENT OF
ITS EMPLOYEES IN PAST YEARS WELL AS IN RECENT TIMES, WHEN
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BOMBINGS, MOB DEMONSTRATIONS, SACKINGS, PERSONAL ATTACK AND

KIDNAPPINGS HAVE FAILED TO DETER THE CONTINUED EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS PERSONNEL AND PROGRAMMING. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF PROFESSIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS AND SOME REALISTIC AND PRACTICAL CONSIDERATION OF HAZARDS BY PAOS, WE HAVE ENDURED TRANSITORY HAZARDS AND ADJUSTED TO THOSE THAT HAVE REMAINED, WITHOUT SERIOUS DAMAGE TO PROGRAMMING EFFECTIVENESS.

3. IN RECENT YEARS WE HAVE HAD TO FACE A NEW AND MORE DANGEROUS CHALLENGE FROM INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, AND THE DEPARTMENT AND THE AGENCY HAVE DIRECTED NEW RESOURCES TO ITS DETERRENCE.

4. I WANT TO REAFFIRM MY EXPECTATION THAT YOU WILL GIVE THIS MATTER YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION, AND THAT WHILE ADHERING TO PROGRAMMING GOALS YOU WILL BE AT THE SAME TIME PRUDENTLY CONSIDERATE OF THE SAFETY OF YOUR PERSONNEL. PEOPLE ARE OUR MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE, AND TERRORIST ACTS TODAY ARE BEING DIRECTED AGAINST PEOPLE. YOUR APPRAISAL SHOULD BEGIN WITH THEIR NEEDS.

5. IF IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED PRUDENT TO CREATE PROTECTIVE OR DETERRENT MEASURES THAT WILL THEMSELVES IMPAIR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TRADITIONAL PROGRAMMING ACTIVITIES, YOU SHOULD NOT REJECT AN ATTEMPT TO ADJUST AND REORDER THE PRIORITIES

OF YOUR ACTIVITIES. YOU SHOULD ASSUME APPROPRIATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECIDING WHAT LEVEL OF PROTECTION IS REASONABLE AND PRUDENT. WITH DETERRENCE AS A MINIMUM GOAL, YOU SHOULD DISCUSS WITH RSO THE OPTIONS OF BOTH PROTECTION AND PROGRAMMING AND STRIVE FOR A CONSENSUS ON ALL SIGNIFICANT POINTS AT ISSUE.

6. I BELIEVE WE CAN EXPECT THE THREAT OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM TO WANE, JUST AS HAVE OTHER PERIODS OF SIMILAR CONCERN. HOWEVER, FOR THE PRESENT AT LEAST WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT BUSINESS AS USUAL MUST SOMETIMES BE SACRIFICED IN THE INTEREST OF IMPROVED SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF OUR PEOPLE. KISSINGER

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